

Claims

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving a composite signal;

displaying a program received on the composite signal as it is received;

displaying a user interface to control the program display, the user interface comprising a delay control and a resume control;

receiving actuation of the delay control via the user interface, and in response to the delay control actuation,

persisting the user interface on screen with the resume control highlighted;

delaying display of the program;

displaying an indication of waiting email on screen; and

compressing and saving the program to a circular buffer as it is received; and

~~receiving actuation of the resume control via the user interface, and in response to the resume actuation,~~

~~decompressing and resuming display of the program as saved in the circular buffer from a time of delay actuation~~

determining if a threshold time has passed since actuation of the delay control; and in response to the threshold time passing, returning a transmission channel assigned to the program back to a pool of available transmission channels.

20. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19 further comprising executable instructions for decompressing and resuming display of the program as saved in the circular buffer from the time of delay actuation, while continuing to compress and save the program to the circular buffer as it is received.

21. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 19 wherein the program is chosen from among a list comprising video on demand and broadcast television.

22. (previously presented) A system comprising:
means for receiving a composite signal;
means for displaying a program received on the composite signal as it is received;
means for displaying a user interface to control the program display, the user interface comprising a delay control and a resume control;
means for receiving actuation of the delay control via the user interface, and in response to the delay control actuation,
means for persisting the user interface on screen with the resume control highlighted;
means for delaying display of the program; and
means for compressing and saving the program to a circular buffer as it is received;
means for receiving actuation of the resume control via the user interface, and in response to the resume actuation;
means for decompressing and resuming display of the program as saved in the circular buffer from a time of delay actuation; and
means for determining if a threshold time has passed since actuation of the delay control; and in response to the threshold time passing, means for returning a transmission channel assigned to the program back to a pool of available transmission channels.

23. (previously presented) A method comprising:
receiving a composite signal;
displaying a program received on the composite signal as it is received;
displaying a user interface to control the program display, the user interface comprising a delay control and a resume control;
receiving actuation of the delay control via the user interface, and in response to the delay control actuation,
persisting the user interface on screen with the resume control highlighted;
delaying display of the program; and
compressing and saving the program to a circular buffer as it is received;

returning a transmission channel assigned to the program to a transmission pool;
receiving actuation of the resume control via the user interface after the channel has been returned to the transmission pool, and in response to the resume actuation,
assigning a new transmission channel to the program, and
decompressing and resuming display of the program on the new transmission channel as saved in the circular buffer from a time of delay actuation.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the delay control and resume control are defined by HTML primitives.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein displaying a user interface comprises rendering at least one HTML primitive.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the user interface is displayed on a WebTV terminal.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the user interface is displayed on a terminal and wherein the terminal comprises at least two interfaces.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the at least two interfaces comprise at least two of: an infrared interface, a user interface, a dial-up interface, and a cable interface.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the program received on the composite signal is a video program.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the program received on the composite signal comprises at least one interactive component.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein at least one HTML primitive defines a hyperlink.

32. (canceled)